

November 2, 2004

Re: MDR #: M2-05-0058-01
IRO #: 5055

Dear ____

In accordance with the requirement for TWCC to randomly assign cases to IROs, TWCC assigned your case to ____ for an independent review. ____ has performed an independent review of the medical records to determine medical necessity. In performing this review, ____ reviewed relevant medical records, any documents provided by the parties referenced above, and any documentation and written information submitted in support of the dispute.

I am the Secretary and General of ____ and I certify that the reviewing physician in this case has certified to our organization that there are no known conflicts of interest that exist between him and any of the treating physicians or other health care providers or any of the physicians or other health care providers who reviewed this care for determination prior to referral to the Independent Review Organization.

Information and medical records pertinent to this medical dispute were requested from the Requestor and every named provider of care, as well as from the Respondent. The independent review was performed by a matched peer with the treating health care provider. Your case was reviewed by a physician who is Board Certified in Pain Management and is currently listed on the TWCC Approved Doctor List.

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Information Provided for Review:

TWCC-60, Table of Disputed Services, EOB's

Information provided by Requestor:

- Office notes 03/26/02 – 09/03/04
- Physical therapy notes 06/07/02 – 04/30/03
- Radiology reports 01/09/03 – 08/30/04

Information provided by Respondent:

- Position statement 10/13/04
- Correspondence and documentation
- Orthopedic evaluation 07/12/04

Information provided by Pain Mgmt. Specialist:

- Office notes 03/03/03 – 04/12/03
- Nerve conduction study 02/11/03
- Operative report 05/09/03

Clinical History:

This patient was injured in _____. She has already had epidural steroid injections in the past without any significant success. She was 66 years of age at the time of the injury. Her EMG at that time was totally normal. Her lumbar MRI showed evidence of disc desiccation and degenerative disc disease, which would certainly be normal for someone of that age.

Disputed Services:
EMG/NCV

Decision:

The reviewer agrees with the determination of the insurance carrier and is of the opinion that EMG/NCV are not medically necessary in this case.

Rationale:

This patient has a disease, which is a normal disease for her age. There is no evidence of any neurologic change since her original EMG several years ago. There is certainly no evidence on physical examination of any worsening symptoms. She suffered nothing more than a simple sprain and strain from her injury approximately ____ ago. No further diagnostic testing would be medically reasonable or necessary for this patient.

We are simultaneously forwarding copies of this report to the payor and the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission. This decision by ____ is deemed to be a Commission decision and order.

YOUR RIGHT TO REQUEST A HEARING

Either party to this medical dispute may disagree with all or part of this decision and has a right to request a hearing.

If disputing a spinal surgery prospective decision a request for a hearing must be in writing and it must be received by the TWCC Chief Clerk of Proceedings **within ten (10) days** of your receipt of this decision (28 Tex. Admin. Code 142.5©).

If disputing other prospective medical necessity (preauthorization) decisions a request for a hearing must be in writing and it must be received by the TWCC Chief Clerk of Proceedings **within twenty (20) days** of your receipt of this decision (28 Tex. Admin. Code 148.3).

This Decision is deemed received by you **five (5) days** after it was mailed (28 Tex. Admin. Code 102.4(h) or 102.5 (d)). A request for a hearing should be sent to:

Chief Clerk of Proceedings
Texas Workers' Compensation Commission, MS-48
7551 Metro Center Dr., Ste. 100
Austin, TX 78744-1609

A copy of this decision should be attached to the request. The party appealing the decision shall deliver a copy of its written request for a hearing to all other parties involved in the dispute.

I hereby verify that a copy of this Independent Review Organization (IRO) Decision was sent to the carrier, the requestor and claimant via facsimile or U.S. Postal Service from the office of the IRO on November 2, 2004.